

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph at page 1, line 1:

RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/250,298 filed November 29, 2000.

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 1, as follows:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

~~{0001}~~—[0001.1] This invention relates to data switching systems. In particular, this invention relates to a method and apparatus for providing a relatively high-speed switching capability using several relatively low speed switching systems operated in parallel.